

# ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** April 19, 2018

**Agenda Item:** Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft Inspection Site Leases

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Minutes

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## **Background**

In October 2016, Tiber Reservoir tested positive for invasive mussel larvae and Canyon Ferry Reservoir tested a suspect sample. In response, new laws were put into place to build regional defense against zebra and quagga mussels, requiring inspection for all boats entering the state and all boats crossing the Continental Divide into the Columbia River Basin. The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program has established watercraft inspection stations throughout the state to ensure compliance to the new laws.

The proposed Lincoln AIS Inspection Station is located on land owned by the Lincoln Rural Fire District along State Highway 200 approximately 4 miles northeast of Lincoln, in Lewis and Clark County. The objective of the proposed site is to inspect watercraft traveling across the Continental Divide into the Columbia River Basin. The lease has been negotiated for \$150 per month, partial months can be prorated, for a 1-year term, renewable in 1-5 terms. The proposed Nashua AIS Inspection Station is located on private commercial land along US Highway 2 in Nashua, in Valley County. The objective of the proposed site is to establish a seasonal AIS inspection station along US Highway 2 near Fort Peck Reservoir and the Milk River to minimize the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species. The lease has been negotiated for \$1,200 annually, for a 1-year term, renewable in 1-5 terms. Funding for both sites will come from the base AIS budget. An AIS check station was operated at the Lincoln site in 2017 through a short-term agreement.

## **Public Involvement Process & Results**

On February 10, 2017, the Fish & Wildlife Commission provided an endorsement to the Department to secure sites for AIS watercraft inspection sites as needed. On March 2 an environmental assessment for each site, Lincoln and Nashua, were released for public comment. The public comment period commenced on March 17. No public comments were received for either site. Decision notices were published on March 2.

## **Alternatives and Analysis**

Preferred alternative: Lease the Lincoln and Nashua sites for AIS watercraft inspection stations.

No Action: Do not lease the Lincoln and Nashua sites for AIS watercraft inspection stations. No action increases the risk of spread of invasive mussels and other invasive species.

## **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

To allow FWP to lease the Lincoln and Nashua sites for AIS watercraft inspection sites.

## **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve FWP leasing the Lincoln and Nashua sites for AIS watercraft inspection sites..